

The Week's Progress in Good Roads Campaign

GOOD ROADS ARE KEY TO SUCCESS

They Are Absolutely Essential to Virginia's Great Educational Movement.

BENEFIT IN MANY WAYS

Eggleston Discusses Campaign Now Being Waged for Permanent Highways.

BY HON. J. D. EGGLESTON, Superintendent Public Instruction.

Good roads are absolutely essential to insure the success of the present great movement in Virginia for the public schools in the country districts.

Large numbers of one-room schools are being merged into centrally located graded schools or graded schools in every part of the State, and in numerous instances transportation wagons have been put into use to haul the children to the newly located schools.

In every instance where it was proposed to put a wagon into use it has been necessary to inquire first as to the condition of the road over which the children were to be transported.

It is a fact that, although hundreds of small schools have been merged into these large graded schools, and although about 110 wagons are in use in various parts of the State, if the roads throughout the State had been macadamized or gravelled, there would be now at least three times as many graded schools and transportation wagons in use.

It should not be overlooked that this movement started only three years ago. In fact, it needs no argument to show that with good roads throughout the length and breadth of the State, the country school problem would be a comparatively simple one.

I know of scores of communities where transportation wagons could be used to transport the children who are compelled to attend the small one-room school, in which they make such slow progress in their education.

Benefit in Many Ways. But permanent roads would be of great benefit to the schools, not only on account of transportation for children, but because with good roads the children could walk more quickly and much farther, and private conveyances

could be used much more readily and for longer distances. A seven-mile haul over a macadam road would be much easier in most of the communities of Virginia than a four-mile or five-mile haul over the present earth roads. This has been proven by actual tests.

Another point to be considered under this aspect of the question is that every cent of transportation if the roads were macadamized, I have been told by a chairman of the district trustees of one school district, which has, I believe, five wagons running over red clay roads, that the cost of hiring a team and driver could be reduced 25 per cent, not counting the wear and tear on the wagons, if the district roads were macadamized.

The second aspect of this question is an economic one. The building of

TRAFFIC MADE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE



Public road between Antlers and Norvello. In the foreground is shown a hole in which two mules harnessed and retained for several hours before they were rescued by means of chains.

good macadam or gravel roads throughout the State would be of immense benefit to the schools from a financial standpoint. It is no exaggeration to say that the value of the lands along or near the macadamized or gravelled roads would double in value in five years. The revenues, therefore, which would come to the schools on account of the increased valuations where good roads existed, would add a very large sum to the amounts now available for school uses.

A statement made by Senator Strode, of Amherst county, recently is to the effect that the lands along and near the macadam road now being built in Amherst county have already doubled in value, even before the road has been completed.

In Prince Edward county I know of one stretch of macadam road along which the value of lands has more than doubled since the road was established.

Revenues Insufficient. Schools cannot be run without money, and the present revenues are entirely insufficient to enable the people of Virginia to have the kind of schools that the children deserve. Millions of dollars intelligently spent in building macadam roads throughout Virginia would mean tens of thousands of dollars of increased revenues for school purposes without additional taxation.

So impressed am I with the absolute necessity of building permanent roadways in order to have proper school and social facilities in the country districts that I rarely make a public speech on the subject of schools that I do not advocate the improvement of the public highways. The consolidation of schools and the building of roads should go hand in hand.

The very best blood of the country districts cannot be kept there unless the people have good school facilities, easy access to market, and the advantages of social life. Bad roads are a barrier to the building of good schools, and the well-graded, centrally located school in the country district, with agricultural and industrial features, is the only solution of the school problem in the country.

Country people cannot have access to markets without permanent roadways. In such roadways country life becomes more attractive than city life. Men and women, boys and girls, young and old people cannot enjoy the social features so necessary for happy living without good roads.

A ride of eight or ten miles over a good macadam road during the winter months is an easy proposition. A ride of three miles during the same season over a mud road is at times practically impossible. It can easily be seen how much more attractive the social side of the country life can be made with good roadways.

It is a happy augury that country people are rapidly awakening to the fact that rural telephone, good roads, well located graded schools and good churches are essential to country life.

SAND-CLAY ROADS ARE RECOMMENDED

Commissioner Wilson Discusses This Class of Work in His Report.

State Highway Commissioner P. S. Julien Wilson, in his annual report, recently issued, has the following to say in reference to sand-clay roads which are now being built in Southern Virginia.

Much can be done towards bettering the condition of the roads in Eastern Virginia by properly grading, draining and surfacing them with a mixture of sand and clay. As these materials in proximity to each other exist in great quantities throughout the entire section, roads of this character can be built at less than a fourth of the cost of macadam roads. The law was amended at the last session of the Legislature so as to specify sand-clay construction as a character of road improvement to which State aid can be applied, and this department has issued an article describing of the process. Nevertheless, very little work of this kind has been done.

One of the chief arguments used against the expenditure of money for such roads is that in many localities the narrow tires of wagons hauling heavy loads will in wet weather cut through the sand-clay surface and soon have the road in very bad condition. There is much in this, and the fact clearly demonstrates the necessity for legislation which will enforce the use of wide tires on all heavy draft vehicles. In any event, restrictions should be placed on the hauling of heavy loads over roads that, either through weather conditions or having been newly worked, are in a soft condition. So common is the damage done in this way to earth roads that it has been said that Virginia cannot have good roads until all her timber has been cut and marketed.

The fact remains that while a sand-clay road is liable to considerable damage under bad conditions, it can be easily repaired, and the continuous use of road drags will keep them in fairly good condition during the worst seasons.

Onancock Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ONANCOCK, VA., March 20.—Miss Frances Thornton, guest of Mrs. George Lee and her family, returned from a visit to her home at Onancock, Va., on Saturday last.

Surry Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] SURRY, VA., March 20.—Miss Jane Conroy, of Wakefield, spent Saturday and Sunday in the home of G. T. Clark, of this place.

Dr. Astrop visited his son, Robert, at Randolph-Alcon last week. The Rev. Mr. L. C. Johnson, of Portsmouth, preached to a large congregation at the Baptist Church Sunday night.

Mrs. Lydia McGrath returned Wednesday from a three weeks' trip to Baltimore and New York.

Rev. Walter Rhodes was unable to fill his appointments last Sunday on account of sickness. Edward W. Hopkins and West Morris, both of this place, were present at the church.

Mrs. Bessie Rhodes was hostess Wednesday afternoon from 5 o'clock to 8 o'clock in celebration of her ninth birthday.

Mrs. and Mrs. A. M. Nottingham have returned from a trip to Norfolk.

PREPARING FOR FIRST GOOD ROAD

Work Will Be Commenced on Four Miles of Permanent Highway in Lunenburg.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LUNENBURG, VA., March 20.—Preparations for the first piece of macadam road in Lunenburg county is being made between Victoria and Lunenburg Courthouse. Two civil engineers sent here this week by the State Highway Commission are surveying the route, and work will be commenced immediately upon construction.

During this summer it will be completed. The cost of this new road will be only about four miles in length, but it is expected that the building of this short distance will agitate the question of road to such an extent that every citizen within the borders of the old Free State will be interested enough to take up this problem and carry it further until every public thoroughfare of any importance is made of stone and gravel.

The Virginian Railway furnished from its quarry at Kenbridge the entire lot of stone and gravel to complete this road, and delivered it at Victoria free of any charges. This will reduce the cost of the construction to a great extent, and will encourage the work further.

It is reported here on good authority that the Board of Supervisors enough material to build macadam roads from its line, several miles in length, and there seems no doubt but that many miles of good roads in the county will be the result within the next few years. The people generally are more interested in road construction than any other now before them.

During the past winter the road situation in this county has been a problem that has caused other unfavorable comment than any other question. Various lumber yards have dotted the entire county, and the conveying of their products from the plants to the railroads has put the public highways in such condition that they have been almost impassable. As a result, no progress has been made in marketing the farm products, as well as that of the mills.

On the Prince Edward side the road work is better shaped as a result of 2500 tons of broken stone and gravel being used during the winter. During the past week a road drag has been put in service, with good results.

Saluda Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] SALUDA, VA., March 20.—Mrs. Mattie Chapman left Tuesday for a visit to friends in Baltimore.

Miss Emma Dew Segar has returned to "Rockwood," after several weeks' stay in Norfolk.

James M. Bristow has accepted a position at Cape Henry.

Mrs. Nannie McDaniel is visiting relatives in Richmond.

Dr. H. E. Brown is in Richmond for medical treatment.

Mrs. G. W. Watta is at home from Trinity College, Durham, N. C.

Dr. and Mrs. A. Brown Evans were guests of Hon. and Mrs. W. D. Evans for several weeks in Richmond.

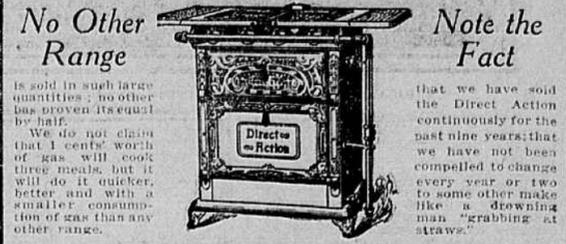
Gordonville Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] GORDONVILLE, VA., March 20.—Mr. and Mrs. Montague Grant, of Chicago, Ill., were visiting at the home of Dr. John W. Scott.

Rev. John O'Neil, who has been quite sick for several weeks is out again.

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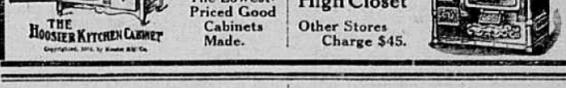
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at Spring Fields Stock Farm, the home of W. W. Osborne, near town.

Mrs. Walton of lower Louisa county, is a guest of J. H. Hall.

Miss Mattie Meade has returned from a visit of several weeks to friends in Charlottesville.

Frank Holladay has been spending the week in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. H. Harlow of Texas is visiting at the home of Captain George Wright.

Everette Taber and Oscar Lewis, together with other relatives in Roanoke, spent the week with relatives in Charlottesville.

Mrs. Dora Robertson, after spending several days at the home of Mrs. J. C. Clifton Forge, is now in Clifton Forge.

George McD. Blake, of Richmond, was a guest of Mrs. J. C. Clifton Forge.

Dr. H. H. Sargent has returned from a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Emmet Tucker, at Mineral.

J. B. Harlow of Birmingham, Ala., visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Harlow, near town, this week.

Rev. W. J. Hall has sold his home, near town, to J. D. Bibb, and will move to North Heights to be convenient to his churches.

T. M. Fowler, who has been spending some time with his parents here, has returned to his farm in Louisa county.

Ashtand Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ASHTAND, VA., March 20.—Miss Helen Tilford of Washington, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Arthur Ward, at the Henry Clay Hotel.

Miss Tolson, of Richmond, is visiting Mrs. Carter, of Washington.

Mrs. W. G. Hays, of Ashtand, has returned home after a visit to her son, Mr. William Rice, of Washington.

Burlington Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] BURLINGTON, N. C., March 20.—The Glebe Club of the Burlington Graded School entertained its friends at the home of J. W. Gals, Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Mary Zachary and daughter, only, are visiting relatives and friends in the city.

Mrs. Edwin Holt is spending a week in Raleigh with her father, Captain T. W. Davis.

Miss Maude Steffen, of High Point, spent Sunday here with her parents.

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Lexington Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LEXINGTON, VA., March 20.—Rev. Robert E. Steele, pastor of New Monmouth Presbyterian Church, near Lexington, has returned home from a trip of several weeks.

Harry Ewing, of New York, a representative of the Students' Volunteer Movement, was a visitor in Lexington the past week at Washington and Lee University and the Virginia Military Institute. He occupied the pulpit of Trinity Methodist Church Sunday evening.

Edward A. Quisenberry left his home here a few days ago for Charlottesville to undergo an operation for appendicitis at the University Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Houston Leech reached their home in Lexington Tuesday evening from Florida, where they spent the winter. Councilman John L. Mullen, of Roanoke,

Advertisement for Good Luck Baking Powder, featuring an illustration of a woman holding a box of Good Luck Baking Powder.

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Advertisement for A Woman's Perfect Health, featuring an illustration of a woman and the text 'Is Earth's Most Beautiful Object'.

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